

Bike to Work event draws more than one hundred participants

“The event went off without a hitch, except for some missing muffins at one check-in center!” said Martha Clarvoe, president of the Otsego County Conservation Association.

She was speaking of Otsego County’s first “Bike to Work Day,” held on May 13 and organized by Otsego Regional Cycling Advocates, a committee convened by OCCA to promote bicycling in Otsego County as an enjoyable, healthy, safe, and environmentally-friendly activity for people of all ages and abilities.

The goal of the event was to get county residents thinking about using alternative, “green” transportation to get to work, not just on “Bike to Work Day” but as often as possible throughout the year.

“It would be good for the environment and our personal health if we biked more often to other destinations as well,” said Dennis Savoie, ORCA chairperson.

Five check-in points in the Cooperstown area registered 75 bikers and 53 walkers for a total of 129 participants, with the break-down being:

Cooperstown Elementary: 26 bikers/scooters, 3 walkers

Cooperstown High School: 12 bikers, 15 walkers

Bassett Healthcare at Beaver and Fair streets: 24 bikers, 34 walkers

Pioneer Park: 5 bikers, 1 walker

Clark Sports Center: 8 bikers

“Many walkers were not counted because we needed more volunteers at the check points,” Clarvoe said.

“It was a successful event. I was impressed by the number of people that walk or bike to work. It would be nice if even more people were able to do it,” said Barb Harman, who helped out with the event at the Bassett Hospital check point.

Mike Jerome, a member of ORCA, concurred that “Bike to Work” went well.

“For a first-time event, it went really well, and we would like to find ways to increase participation in the future,” he said.

Besides Savoie and Jerome, other members of ORCA are Diana Nicols, Erik Bravin, Dottie Hudson, William Walker, Jeffrey Wheeler and Jenne Rasmussen.

To join ORCA or OCCA, contact Clarvoe at 607-547-4020 or email martha.clarvoe@gmail.com.

OCCA is a private, non-profit environmental membership organization dedicated to promoting the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research, and planning. For more information on OCCA, or to donate, call 607-547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org